

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /126 W

----- 039432

R 100800Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6696

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR, US

SUBJ: PODGORNÝ VISIT TO BULGARIA

1. SUMMARY: PODGORNÝ VISIT TO BULGARIA JULY 4-8
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DEVOTED LARGELY TO FOREIGN POLICY
QUESTIONS AND GAVE SOVIETS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN SIGNI-
FICANCE OF BREZHNEV MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, THEME PICKED
UP BY ZHIVKOV AND BCP LEADERSHIP IN SPEECHES PRAISING
"PEACE LOVING POLICIES OF USSR." COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING
VISIT (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT) REITERATES IMPORTANCE
OF NEW ERA EAST-WEST RELATIONS. DESPITE USUAL RHETORIC
OF GREAT BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, NO EVIDENCE OF
NEW AGREEMENTS IN THIS AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. PODGORNÝ VISIT WAS HIGHEST LEVEL BULGARIAN-SOVIET
MEETING SINCE ZHIVKOV WENT TO MOSCOW EIGHT MONTHS AGO.
TALKS APPARENTLY CENTERED AROUND FOREIGN POLICY IN
GENERAL AND BREZHNEV VISITS TO FRG, US AND FRANCE
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SPECIFICALLY. ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV VISITS TO FRG AND

FRANCE RECEIVED EXPECTED PRAISE, BOTH LEADERS TOOK SPECIAL CARE TO SINGLE OUT US SUMMIT AS MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF "PEACE LOVING POLICY" WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO PERSONAL EFFORTS OF BREZHNEV. ZHIVKOV SAID THAT "THIS NEW SPIRIT IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS" WARMLY WELCOMED BY BCP WILL BENEFIT NOT ONLY PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT ALL MANKIND.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE REITERATES IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY FOR ALL PEOPLES AND IS MARKED BY UNUSUAL ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IMPORTANCE OF AGREEMENT TO REDUCE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONTAINS PROMINENTLY PLACED ATTACK ON CHINESE LEADERSHIP FOR ITS "ANTI SOVIET POLICIES" OF DIVISION AND COOPERATION WITH "MOST REACTIONARY IMPERIALIST CIRCLES".

4. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS USUAL OBEISANCE TO NEED FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION OF SOCIALIST STATES, NO MAJOR ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS EMERGED FROM MEETING.

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD EXPECT PODGORNYY TO USE OCCASION FOR RINGING ENDORSEMENT BREZHNEV ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WE ARE STRUCK BY EMPHASIS THIS RECEIVED. FACT THAT ZHIVKOV IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ENDORSED POLICY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH WEST WITHOUT UNDUE CAVEATS ON DANGERS OF IMPERIALIST IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION WOULD INDICATE THAT GOB LEADERSHIP GOT A VERY STRONG AND FIRM MESSAGE FROM ITS SOVIET GUEST ON WHAT WILL BE FUTURE LINE.

6. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER BULGARS SOUGHT FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM SOVIETS, PARTICULARLY CONCESSIONS IN DELIVERY OF NEEDED RAW MATERIALS. BUT IT MAY NOT BE ACCIDENTAL THAT JULY 6 SESSION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED DECREE CALLING FOR REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRIC POWER, FUELS, CHEMICALS AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS. IT MAY BE THAT BULGARIS HAD HOPED FOR PROMISES OF INCREASED DELIVERIES FROM SOVIETS DURING PODGORNYY VISIT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAILING WHICH SUCH MEASURE BECAME NECESSARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SOFIA00835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730743/aaaabfdt.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PODGORNYY VISIT TO BULGARIA
TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005